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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,118	11/25/2003	Cheng Shine Hwang	00216-654001 / H-254 (Ka)	6141
26161	7590	12/17/2008	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			YU, GINA C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1611	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Continuation of No. 11:

Applicant's arguments filed on November 3, 2008 have been fully considered but are unpersuasive.

Applicant asserts that the presently claimed methods are non-obvious over Billoni in view of Monneret because Billoni suggests of the uncertainty of the cause of hair growth cessation associated with 15-PGD2. Applicant appears to suggest that, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art must suggest and identifies "an exact cause" of how the invention works. Examiner respectfully disagrees, as the claimed invention is a method of using the PPAR-alpha receptor for a specific purposes, and a theory or explanation of the mechanism of how the receptor works is not a patentable subject matter, nor is it necessary in drawing a conclusion that a skilled artisan reading Billoni would have found motivation to practice the claimed method of reducing hair growth with the same agent. The observed cessation of hair growth is not a mere "unknown" or "uncertainty", but the specific result which the present invention is sought to achieve. Examiner is of opinion that the prior arts sufficiently suggest and provide motivation to make and use the present invention and the obviousness rejection is viewed proper in this case.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GINA C. YU whose telephone number is (571)272-8605. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 9:00AM until 5:30 PM..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sharmila Landau can be reached on 571-272-0614. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gina C. Yu/
Primary Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1611